

19. A method of treating a prion disease in a mammal, comprising selecting a mammal for treatment of a prion disease that is suffering from or susceptible to a prion disease and administering an effective amount of a chaotropic agent to the mammal.

20. The method of claim 19 wherein the agent is a guanidine salt, sodium iodide, potassium iodide, urea or combinations thereof.

21. The method of claim 19 wherein the agent is guanidine hydrochloride.

22. The method of claim 19 wherein the prion disease is a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy.

B³ ✓ 23. The method of claim 19 wherein the prion disease is scrapie., transmissible mink encephalopathy, chronic wasting disease, bovine spongiform encephalopathy, spongiform encephalopathy of exotic ruminants, feline spongiform encephalopathy, kuru, Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, fatal familial insomnia, Gerstmann-Straussler-Scheinker syndrome, or new-variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease.

24. The method of claim 23 wherein the mammal is a human, cow, sheep, mink or cat.

25. The method of claim 19 wherein the prion disease is bovine spongiform encephalopathy.

26. The method of claim 25 wherein the mammal is a cow.

27. The method of claim 19 wherein the prion disease is Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease or new-variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease.